



# The Battlefield Dispatch

## Brad Bennett Named Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP Superintendent

*By NPS Staff – Southeast Regional Office*

Brad Bennett has been selected as superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia and Tennessee, effective June 1, 2014.

Bennett has served as superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site since July 2009.

During Bennett's tenure at Andersonville, the park's interpretation and education program incorporated new scholarship, updated curriculum and publications, trained local high school students to participate in living history events, and successfully engaged area civil rights organizations.

The park also developed new opportunities for the public to appreciate Andersonville's stories of courage and sacrifice by collaborating with several organizations, including the Friends of Andersonville and the American Ex-Prisoners of War, to raise more than \$250,000 to fund a traveling exhibit about the hardships and legacy of POWs.

These efforts earned him the Southeast Region's 2012 Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation and the Southeast Region's 2013 Keeper of the Light Award for excellence in educational outreach.

Bennett started his NPS career in 1991 as a

Student Conservation Association volunteer at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. During his tenure there he served as a seasonal interpreter, visitor use assistant, park guide, park ranger, and interpretive specialist.

During a subsequent assignment at Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia, Bennett worked with planning and development teams on several interpretive media projects across the National Park System, including Manassas National Battlefield Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

Bennett held a series of NPS positions in Alaska, beginning with a 2002 detail as a management assistant in the remote Western Arctic National Parklands, based in Kotzebue. He went on to serve as superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, as manager of the interagency Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage, and as the Alaska Region's chief of interpretation and education.

Bennett grew up on the front range of Colorado's Rocky Mountains and met his wife, Emma-Gray, at the University of Southern California, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English literature and creative writing.

Prior to securing his first permanent position with the NPS, Bennett worked as a paralegal with the U.S. Attorney's Office

and as the volunteer coordinator for the Mountains Education Program, a non-profit organization that introduced Los Angeles children to their first outdoor experiences in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

"I look forward to working with the park staff, volunteers, and partner organizations who collectively care for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park," Bennett said. "Together, we will invite more Americans to experience its inspirational values and preserve its significant history for future generations."

Brad, Emma-Gray, and their three children – a 17-year old daughter and 16-year old twin sons – will move to their new home in early June.



**Superintendent Brad Bennett will be coming to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park from Andersonville National Historic Site on June 1, 2014.**

## National Park Night at AT&T Field

Please join us, the Friends of the Park and the Chattanooga Lookouts for National Park Night at AT&T Field!

Monday, June 30 (Kids Eat Free Night)  
Gates Open at 6:30 pm  
First Pitch at 7:15 pm

Tickets are available for \$5.00 at:

[www.friendsofchch.org](http://www.friendsofchch.org)

For additional information, contact the Friends of the Park at:

423-648-5623



# Students Lead the Charge to Repair Ohio Monument on Missionary Ridge

*By Park Ranger Christopher Young*

Several years ago, Derek Hinkle, a fifth-grade teacher at Waggoner Middle School in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, found himself at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park researching his family connections to the Civil War. During his visit, Mr. Hinkle made his way to Missionary Ridge and the Ohio Monument perched atop the ridge's crest.

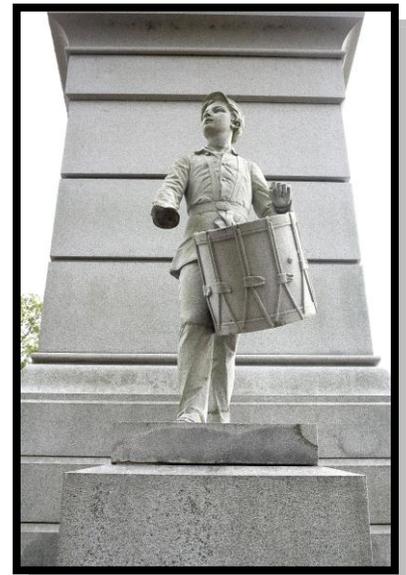
This year, as Mr. Hinkle began teaching about the Civil War, he shared that the drummer boy, one of the four life-size granite statues situated on the monument, was damaged. The students, just slightly younger than many drummer boys during the war, wanted to do something meaningful to remember the soldiers' sacrifices made while fighting for control of Chattanooga in 1863.

One hundred fifty years ago, during the assault on Missionary Ridge, Union soldiers peered up the slopes and into the barrels of Confederate rifles and cannon. It must have been an unimaginable prospect to be ordered to carry such fortified positions along the crest. In a way, it was equally as challenging for the students tasked to raise funds needed to restore the drummer boy at a cost of \$5,000. However, the 11-year-olds, like the soldiers before them, assaulted their target head-on. They began contacting veterans groups, and it was not long before the students began receiving donations to help repair the monument's drummer.

A few weeks ago, the monument's conservation work was completed. The drummer boy's right hand was replaced, older repairs were reworked, and aluminum drumsticks now replace the zinc sticks that were missing and damaged.

Now that funds have been raised and the preservation work has been completed, it is

time for the students to see the monument first hand. The fifth-graders from Waggoner Middle School will be in the Chattanooga area on Saturday, May 17, for a special program at the Ohio Monument. The students, like the soldiers before them, have won a great victory on Missionary Ridge!



**The drummer boy statue at Missionary Ridge prior to restoration.**



**Conservation work on the drummer boy at the Ohio Reservation atop Missionary Ridge.**

# Decorated with Death: Cannon as Memorials

*By Park Ranger Will Sunderland*

“Load, Ready, Fire!” - During the Battle of Chickamauga, these commands were given countless times as artillery commanders barked out orders, showering advancing infantry with iron, shredding soldiers’ bodies.

Have you ever thought about this as you walked through the park, looking at cannon standing silently among the trees?

Today, cannon sit decoratively in town squares. Occasionally they are fired to celebrate Independence Day or paraded down the street. People climb them to pose for a family photo. But as they stand here at Chickamauga Battlefield and at other sites around the country, these artillery pieces are reminders of their real purpose – as weapons of death.

At one point during the Battle of Chickamauga, about 700 Confederate

soldiers walked out of the woods into the south end of Poe Field. As the soldiers stepped into the unharvested field, at least 18 Union cannon opened fire upon them from the opposite side of the field.

In just five minutes, the Union guns had stirred up so much dust the gunners could not see their human targets. They ceased firing and in the silence the shredded grasses and dirt began to lightly settle amidst the clouds of gun smoke. As the view cleared, the surviving Confederates made their way back into the woods. Left behind were half the charging Confederates, broken and bleeding on the ground.

A cannon sitting in a field looks like a fun place to play until one hears the roar and sees the flash of fire from the muzzle. The concussion of a cannon is like a firework in celebration until one smells the burning powder and hears the stories of soldiers—18, 19, 20 years old—cut down and maimed by exploding iron.

They can still add a scenic touch to a family photo, but please stand alongside them instead of climbing on top. The sunlight reflecting off their muzzles is still a beautiful sight, yet the artillery pieces found on the battlefield today were used in war. Though today they stand silently, planning to kill no more, they harken back to remind us today of the sacrifices made to preserve our nation.



**Park volunteers fire a reproduction howitzer on Missionary Ridge.**



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the “Gateway to the Deep South.” Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

## **Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park**

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## **Bringing History to Life in Your Senses**

*By Park Ranger Will Sunderland*

Humans spend a lot of time using their senses: Did you see that? Smell this! Listen!

The National Park Service trains staff and volunteers to fire reproduction artillery pieces. It takes practice, to make their motions fluid like a well – drilled Civil War crew. It takes time, to choose the correct uniforms to portray Civil War soldiers. It takes diligence, to ensure each member of the crew and every visitor watching remains safe.

So why invest the time and effort in these demonstrations?

Living history demonstrations open the senses to the past: the smoke, the concussion of cannon firing, soldiers in uniform.

The demonstrations also awaken the experiences of soldiers who fought, died, or were forever changed by their experiences. As the roar and flame and smoke drift away and only silent cannons on the battlefield remain, remember those who fired—and those who faced—these instruments of death.



**Park volunteers train with staff to safely conduct artillery demonstrations.**

# Amongst the War Resources to be Damaged...

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

One hundred fifty years ago, Chattanooga was firmly in Union hands. Over the just-past winter, the city had been turned into a massive forward supply base for the coming drive of William T. Sherman into the military-industrial vitals of the Confederacy. Ulysses S. Grant's orders to Sherman were succinct: *"You I propose to move against Johnston's Army, to break it up and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their War resources."*

Amongst those "war resources" was a burgeoning, though struggling, arms manufacturing capacity in central Georgia and Alabama. Several examples of that challenged, yet expanding, production are on display as part of the Fuller Collection of American Military Longarms in the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. Down Aisle 4 of the Fuller Collection (the far right aisle as you enter the Fuller exhibit), you will find arms produced within the Confederate States of America between 1861 and 1865, including arms

produced in Georgia and Alabama. In Case 4C3 (the cases are identified by the frosted numbers and letters in the upper left of the glass) you will find three examples of the Athens, Georgia, produced arms of Cook & Brother. Originally a New Orleans, firm, the Cooks had been able to flee that city when it fell to the Union in April 1862 with most of their equipment. Re-established in Athens in a building now used by the University of Georgia, the company, by 1864, had the potential to produce several thousand arms annually in several models.



**Today, the armory building houses the University of Georgia's Business Outreach Services and Small Business Development Center.**  
(Photo courtesy of Online Athens)



In the same case is a Columbus – produced Greenwood & Gray/J. P. Murray rifle. This firm included the involvement of Georgia businessman John D. Gray who had a furniture factory at Graysville on South Chickamauga Creek not far northeast of the scene of the eventual Battle of Chickamauga. Three cases down, in 4C6, you'll find a Dickson, Nelson & Co. rifle produced in Dawson.

Although the Confederacy was more successful in the production of uniforms, accoutrements, ammunition, and cannon their armies required, Southern – produced longarms, like the examples in the Fuller Collection, help illustrate why taking Chattanooga was so critical for the Union and why Grant's directive to Sherman in 1864 had to include *"...get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their War resources."*

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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## Freedom Quilt Unveiled at Chickamauga Battlefield

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

In 2013, the park received funding from the National Park Foundation to assist with the transportation of students to either Chickamauga Battlefield or Lookout Mountain Battlefield where the students received programs focusing on freedom and emancipation in 1863. With the help of the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, the park was able to help bring over 1,600 students to the battlefields. However, student participation did not end after their park visit. Students from Orchard Knob Elementary School (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Spring Creek Elementary School (5<sup>th</sup> grade) went the extra mile and created quilt squares that would be sewn into a "Freedom Quilt," an example of the quilts used to assist enslaved African Americans

find freedom before and during the Civil War.



**Students admire the completed "Freedom Quilt" that was recently unveiled at Chickamauga Battlefield. The quilt will eventually be displayed in the visitor center.**